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Heading home

The local minor baseball and softball leagues are up and running across the Pembina Valley. Last Tuesday night, the Altona U13 team hosted Winkler, who went home the winner. Here, Mya Falk braces for the ball as Ashley Dyck heads for home plate.

PHOTO BRETT MITCHELL/VOICE

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Land earmarked for new CFDC building

By Lorne Stelmach

A new home for Morden's signature museum is finally in the works with a site now eyed on the Access Event Centre property.

The Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre recently approached the City of Morden with the thought that the space directly south of the complex would be an ideal location for a new building. Council has given the idea its blessing.

"It needs something better than a basement," said Morden Mayor Brandon Burley.

"We want to help them move forward with this, but we also recognize there has to be a sustainable model," he said. "We want a sustainable future for the CFDC. We want to help them in growing their exhibits and the quality of their programming. It's made excellent strides in recent years.

"From our perspective, this really is a sustainable long term option, and now it's just got to get the attention

of the right people and the people with access to the money," said Burley, who suggested it would still be a three to five-year period before everything could fall into place.

"It's still very much tentative and conditional. There's a lot of things that still need to happen," he noted. "Everybody's happy to help with capital costs, very few want to help with operating costs," he suggested. "We want to see them succeed."

"The overall idea of what we want to build is very clear, and now we are just taking the necessary steps to put that idea into reality," executive director Adolfo Cuetara said via email while on holidays last week. "We hope to have an initial presentation of this definitive project very soon and subsequently start to work with our stakeholders, public and private, to fund this project."

Burley said they envision the facility as a standalone building that would be connected by a walkway to the recreation centre.



The City of Morden plans to lease land south of the Access Event Centre for the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre to build a new, above-ground facility.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

"The land would be retained by the city. If anything was to happen to CFDC, the building would go to the city, so it's not a separately titled facility for them. It would still be city-owned," he said, noting it then would also free up the lower level space in the Access Event Centre that currently houses the museum for other uses.

Burley suggested council saw a need to get on board so the whole process could move along in a timely manner now.

"In order to proceed with funding applications that are available in the short term ... including some substantial interest from the province on this ... they had to have a site located," he said.

There has been exploration of other potential locations including near Lake Minnewasta, but there would not only be more significant costs involved but the availability of the land is even in question.

"Other sites were looked at, but there were just so many compatibilities with the Access Event Centre site in terms of the parking and the draw of people into that area ... they get a lot of walk-up traffic ... so it made a lot of sense to have them there," Burley said.

Cuetara also observed that a feasibility

study for the location by the lake brought up more problems than positives.

"At the end, this study was important because it was showing that the location by itself, initially thought to be good, is not feasible for many reasons," he said.

Cuetara outlined a few key attributes for the new location:

- Around 20,000 square feet to be able to build a semi-basement and ground level, doubling the surface area.
- A floor plan that is mostly square in order to create a functional distribution of space.
- Preference for a location within City of Morden limits.
- A location already equipped with the necessary services.

"When we were analyzing those requirements, it just became obvious that the only possible and available municipal land was this lot south of the Access Event Centre," said Cuetara.

Cuetara noted their proposal specifies that the CFDC will lead the fundraising campaign to get the necessary funds. The museum will build the facility and then pay the City of Morden \$1 a year to lease the land.

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Honouring Peter George Dyck

Buhler Active Living Centre renames second floor in memory of former Pembina MLA

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Buhler Active Living Centre's second floor of specialized housing for older adults has a new name: The Peter George Dyck Villages.

It's a fitting memorial to a man who worked tirelessly for years on behalf of the community and who was The Villages' very first resident, observed board chair Alvin Thiessen.

Dyck moved into The Villages when it opened in 2018, his wife, Irene, settling into an apartment on the facility's third floor.

Supportive housing at this level was something new for Winkler, Thiessen noted. The floor offers residents private rooms but also communal living spaces designed to feel more like a home than a health facility. On-site care is provided 24/7 by Silver Lining Care.

The Dyck family "took a chance" on the concept, Thiessen said. It quickly caught on—by summer of 2020, the 24-bed unit was full. Over the past few years, a total of 58 people have called The Villages home in their final years.

"Peter is an example for aging in place," said Thiessen. "As he needed more care, The Villages was able to provide."

Thiessen noted the floor now has a wait list and the board is currently

looking at how it might better meet the needs of the community's aging population in the future.

"A gap that's becoming more and more visible is the group identified as those in cognitive decline, Alzheimer's, or particularly the caregiver, the one who's taking care of someone in cognitive decline," he said, acknowledging the struggles caregivers face in supporting a loved one in this state.

"We are at this point in the discovery stage," Thiessen said of their plans to help those families. "We are committed to identifying those gaps, speak for those who cannot speak anymore, help those who may need resources and find them for them."

To that end, they're looking for community partners to walk alongside them in this project. The plaque that recognizes the second floor as The Peter George Dyck Villages includes not just past funding partners but a space as well for Legacy Builders—those people and businesses who Thiessen is confident will come forward with their support to fill the gaps that remain in seniors housing.

'MORE LIKE HOME'

For the Dyck family, The Villages

Continued on page 6



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Peter George Dyck's wife Irene, daughter Shannon, and son Patrick with the sign that will go up on the Buhler Active Living Centre's second floor, officially renaming the space as The Peter George Dyck Villages.

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Tina Reimer receives Make It A Reality Award

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Community Foundation's latest Make It A Reality Award recipient has her sights set on becoming a teacher.

On May 17, the foundation announced that Tina Reimer will receive the Gordon Wiebe Education Fund's largest scholarship totalling \$20,000

(\$5,000 a year for the next four years).

Reimer has been working as an educational assistant at Garden Valley Collegiate since graduating there herself six years ago.

This past winter she returned to school part-time to pursue a teaching degree. She plans to continue working full-time while doing distance learning and taking summer courses

at the University of Manitoba over the next few years.

"Teacher by 30!" an enthusiastic Reimer said when asked about her post-secondary game plan.

Scholarship or no, Reimer was intent on making that happen, but the award money takes a lot of pressure off.

"To have the financial burden lifted off is just such a great feeling," she said. "It's such an honour to feel like the Winkler Community Foundation sees the potential in me and wants to support me, and it just feels like I have another group of people that are backing me throughout this journey."

It's taken Reimer a few years to find that path, though she began taking the first steps on it back in high school. In her senior year, she volunteered as an EA in the school's Life Skills program.

"It really was through volunteerism that I discovered my passion for working with students," Reimer recalled. "I just fell in love with it."

But the jump from EA to teacher-in-training required some confidence-building, she shared.

"I didn't always think that I would ever be able to become a teacher. That was something that I just thought I couldn't, I didn't have X, Y, X resources to do it. Through the support of everyone around me and the people that surround me at GVC, I've just had so much growth and I feel like I can do it now."

Reimer's enthusiasm and passion made her stand out as an applicant, as did her volunteer involvement with such local non-profits as the Pembina Valley Humane Society (she's part of the team who plans and runs fundraising events for the animal shelter).

"Living and working in Winkler, Tina knows the community, its resources, and has a desire to help create a positive environment and impact for those around her both in her work and volunteering," said Vi Enns-Woelk, who heads up the foundation's scholarship selection committee. "Her tenacity and grit, drive

and passion are qualities that will support her well in her studies."

The Gordon Wiebe Education Fund was created from the bequest left behind by its namesake, who wanted to help local students overcome barriers to post-secondary education.

"Often students have to move to a new community, incurring many costs associated with such a transition on top of tuition, textbooks, lab fees, and other student fees, which can create a daunting situation for rural students," Enns-Woelk said. "We are grateful for the foresight Mr. Wiebe had in creating an ongoing and tangible way to support young people from Winkler."

The Make It a Reality Award has a very specific focus amongst the many other awards handed out through the fund each year.

"It was felt important that an award be designated for an individual for whom a significant amount of money may make an educational experience possible when it might be considered only a dream or perhaps impossible altogether," Enns-Woelk noted.

For Reimer, it means she'll be able to continue working in a job she loves as long as possible while also pursuing school.

"It means that I can just focus on learning and having fun learning," she said. "University is so cool because you get to really dive into the subjects on a deeper level and I feel like I'm already learning so much that I can take into my job as an educational assistant."

One day soon, she plans to take all she's learned into her own classroom, hopefully right here in Winkler.

"Winkler is where all of the experiences that I've had have happened," Reimer said. "I've had such a great experience at Garden Valley School Division. The admin and the people and the teachers and the educational assistants and everyone there ... growth is the main theme, I would say. It's just such a hopeful environment."



PHOTO BY
ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/
VOICE

The Winkler Community Foundation presented Tina Reimer with the Make It A Reality Award last week.

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City staff work to bring turbidity levels down

Morden had been under a boil water advisory for three weeks

By Lorne Stelmach

The boil water advisory faced by Mordenites over the past few weeks can be traced to the impact of such a drastic change in conditions here.

Going from extreme drought in the past year to flash flooding this spring produced challenges as far as processing and treating water because of what all was coming with the water, said Mayor Brandon Burley.

The concern was around the turbidity, which is a measure of the relative clarity of the water.

"The turbidity from the large amount of water coming into the watershed not only brought in poor quality elements from the watershed itself ... and we haven't had substantial flow through that watershed in the last couple years ... it also raised a lot of suspended solids from the lake

bottom," Burley said a few days before the boil water advisory was lifted May 20. "Essentially, what happens is the turbidity now, the murkiness of the water, we couldn't produce enough water to supply at the quality that it has to be supplied. It was just a matter of time."

Santokh Randhawa, deputy city manager of operations, said the high flood water inflows into the lake caused the turbidity in the raw water to go up to almost 1,000 NTU (nephelometric turbidity unit) while the hardness levels dropped to 140 mg/l.

This impact on the treatment process meant the turbidity in the treated water went above 0.3 NTU—the rate beyond which regulations require a boil water advisory to be issued.

The water treatment plant over the past few weeks has been trying different chemical dosages and different coagulants to bring the turbidity down to the required level.

"The water treatment plant initially tried with changing the dosages of the alum and lime and soda ash to bring the turbidity down, but due to the high turbidity in the raw water, the treated water turbidity could not

be brought down to the license limit," Randhawa said.

"Since then, the city has done tests on different coagulants and is currently testing with the new coagulants to bring the turbidity down to the permissible level," he reported last Tuesday. "As of today, the turbidity is within the permissible level of 0.3 NTU, and the water plant will be taking samples and sending them to the lab for testing. Once the test results are obtained, they will be sent to the drinking water officer with a request to lift the boil water advisory."

"I know it's been a long two and a half weeks ... I know there had been a lot of angst," said Burley.

He noted that council in its previous budget had approved two projects that would have helped prevent this, but they were held up by supply chain delays.

"One is a variable stand pipe so we can select water from the best areas of the lake rather than from a fixed location close to the bottom ... it allows us to automatically select better water coming in.

"The other improvement that would help prevent this is variable speed

drivers in the facility," Burley continued. "When the water's coming into the plant into the clarifier, it has to push out quick enough at a constant pace. What we need to be able to do is to move the water through at a variable rate so we can take a longer time to treat the water."

Being able to push the water through faster or slower will be an advantage in all varying conditions, he added.

"At a time when the water quality is good in the raw water supply, we could move it through at a quicker rate, which decreases our production costs and our bottom line in terms of producing the water quality that we need."

Burley noted they anticipate that both of those projects will be completed this year.

"This is also why secondary water sourcing is important to us," the mayor added. "If we had the ability to slow our plant down to a point where we can better treat it, then we have that additional supply from the Pembina Valley Water Co-op. We're planning to be able to service almost a third of our water from them when required by 2024."

Winkler wastewater treatment plant on hold

Lowest tender came in millions higher than projections

By Lorne Stelmach

Significantly higher costs have put the wastewater treatment plant project for the City of Winkler on hold.

The tender process for what was originally estimated to be a \$48 million project cost-shared three ways between the City of Winkler and RM of Stanley along with the provincial and federal governments came in with a low bid that was substantially higher.

After further discussions, it became clear the project is not financially feasible for the city at this time, said Mayor Martin Harder.

"From a taxpayer's perspective, it just didn't work," he said. "We requested support to try to cover that gap, which we were willing to share a piece of. The deadline passed, and the individual who had the low bid refused to extend the bid for 30 days, so it went to the next tender, which was even higher.

"That's when we said no, we just can't afford that ... if you look between Stanley and Winkler, those numbers are too high."

The project had been ready for construction with the final design completed and environment permits in place, and the city had worked with the province and federal government to secure funding and meet all other requirements.

In the fall of 2021, the cost estimates were updated and found to be in an acceptable range compared to the initial estimates from 2018. Then, earlier this year, the Manitoba Water Services Board sent out the tender for the project and found the costs had escalated significantly due to current market conditions.

The city worked with the board and province to consider various funding options to address the escalated costs, but were unable to arrive at an agreement.

"With the changes in the current pricing structure from the time it was approved to now when the tenders came in ... it was just unbearable," Harder said. "We were going to be the ones who were going to be stuck with that entire bill rather than dividing it up between the three supporters of the project."

Harder emphasized they did not feel it was in the best interest of taxpayers to continue with the current scope of the project without a sustainable funding model in place, but he stressed they are working with provincial and federal representatives to pursue all options, including potentially a re-design, to find a cost-effective, sustainable solution for the city's wastewater needs.

"It's very disappointing. We thought we had this nailed," he said.

He expressed some optimism that the parties involved will arrive at an answer.

"FROM A TAXPAYER'S PERSPECTIVE, IT JUST DIDN'T WORK."

Continued on page 6

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Jayme Giesbrecht steps into role at Eden Fdn.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

After more than decade as an on-air personality at Golden West Radio, Jayme Giesbrecht is shifting gears to take on a new role with the Eden Foundation.

The foundation's board of directors announced last week that Giesbrecht is coming on board as their director of development, filling the shoes of Earl Reimer, who retired earlier this spring.

"She has a vibrant personality and she stood out to us in the fact that mental health and what's related to supporting it is important to her," said Bill Elias, Eden Foundation board chair.

The role of director of development is an important one, Elias noted, responsible for raising awareness about mental health and spearheading fundraising events for Eden Health

Care Services' myriad programs across southern Manitoba.

It's a challenge Giesbrecht is eager to tackle.

Mental health is a cause that's near and dear to her heart, she says.

"When you look at the numbers of the cases of mental health and how it affects our daily lives, if it's not you that's struggling at some point it's somebody you know," said Giesbrecht. "I've seen that firsthand in my own life with people that struggle every single day with mental health.

"I think Eden does a great job of painting a picture of mental health for people" as being a key part of self-care when it comes to one's overall well-being, she said.

Eden's programs and services go a long way toward "changing our communities for the better by caring for everyone's individual mental health," Giesbrecht said. "It was not a question



Jayme Giesbrecht

for me that that's something I want to be a part of."

Giesbrecht got to work with Eden on Tuesday. She's already got several summer fundraisers to oversee, including the upcoming Visit the Villages Tractor Trek.

"He was a pioneer one last time"

From Pg. 3

provided a welcoming place for Peter George to live his final days in comfort and dignity.

After a lifetime spent giving back—he served on the boards of numerous community organizations and was MLA for the Pembina riding for 16 years—Dyck was looking forward to spending his retirement enjoying time with family and travelling.

But a few years into it, the family noticed Dyck was struggling with balance issues. He was eventually diagnosed with a rare disorder called Progressive Supranuclear Palsy.

"It was extremely hard to watch his quick deterioration," shared son Patrick. "He went from walking miles a day to being unable to walk a few steps without losing his balance and falling. It wasn't long until he was wheelchair bound and then finally bed bound."

When it became clear that Irene

could not longer care for Dyck at home, the family started looking for what to do next.

The Villages seemed the perfect fit. "It seemed to be more like his home instead of a hospital setting," Patrick said. "We thought it would be great that he could be in control of his day and not subjected to certain routines and schedules that he didn't feel comfortable with. It made sense to us that this would be the perfect place for him.

"It didn't take very long for him to love his new home at The Villages. He loved the staff at Silver Lining, and I think they loved him as well ... the staff treated him like a king," he said. "We are grateful for the care and love that Dad received on the second floor. We are thankful for the staff that cared for him and treated him with dignity and respect until his last day."

Patrick observed that his father being the first person to call The Villages home is fitting.

It was, "his final work. He was a pi-

oneer one last time.

"It is a blessing to see that the second floor is full and thriving," Patrick said. "It's wonderful that Dad's love for community will be reflected by having his name displayed. He would be honoured and humbled."

> WASTEWATER, FROM PG. 5

"They are all feverishly working at alternative solutions ... and we believe we can find a solution that will meet the financial commitment that they have made; we don't want them to not support us," said Harder.

"There's no idea of timeline now," he added. "All I do want to say is I am very pleased that we bought an additional 113 acres of land next to our lagoon, and I'll just leave it at that ... no decision has been made what the future looks like, but it's a very wise decision that we own that land."

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getinformed

New wheels for Youth for Christ Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

A new van is going to be much more than just a means of transport for Youth for Christ in Morden.

The 15-seat passenger van unveiled recently as a surprise to both staff and board members is going to play a valuable role in their mission and outreach in the area, suggested executive director Ryan Smith.

"It's going to be a great tool to be able to reach out, take more kids on more trips, do more stuff, reach more kids, so we're excited about that," he said.

The organization had been fundraising for awhile towards the purchase of a van that could accommodate a larger group of kids to go on excursions together. They recently were close enough to the goal that they did order the van from Hometown Ford, and it was then taken to WinkCity for decaling.

Smith noted an anonymous donor provided a substantial amount towards the van, which also received donations from a number of other supporters and grants from the United Way Pembina Valley and Morden Community Thrift Store.

"They all joined in to help us, so it's been great," said Smith, who noted the entire cost was covered by community support.

"We're so grateful for the generosity of the community," he said. "We're excited that the community came behind us and raised a whole bunch of money to provide it."

Recalling a recent example where numerous vehicles were needed to take 30 kids bowling in Winkler, Smith said the van not only makes more trips easier but also opens up more possibilities.

"We do a lot of events that are out of town or require picking up kids



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Youth for Christ staff and board members celebrated the arrival of a new 15-seat passenger van last week.

around different parts of town ... this is enabling us to take a lot more kids at the same time on those sort of trips."

"I'm also going to beaches like Grand Beach ... for some of them, it's the farthest that they've even been in their life," Smith added. "For a lot of young people, they are able to do things through Youth for Christ that they're not able to do ... that many of us would take for granted."

"Also it enables us to pick up kids potentially and connect with kids who are farther away, maybe even potentially in communities that are outside of Morden, to bring them in for programming."

"This enables us to get together in a bigger group and have a lot more fun together. It's great to build relationships."

50+ now eligible for second booster shot

By Lorne Stelmach

The province has cleared the way for more Manitobans to get a further booster shot to protect them from COVID-19.

The government announced last Friday it is expanding eligibility for the second vaccine booster dose.

Now eligible are:

- Individuals aged 50 or older who live in the community.
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis people aged 30 or older regardless of where they live.
- Individuals aged 18 to 49 years who are moderately to severely immunocompromised.
- Residents of any age of personal care homes and elderly persons housing congregate living sites.

The province is also shortening the intervals to be eligible for booster doses. The first booster can now be given four months after the person's primary vaccine series (usually two

doses). The second booster dose can now be given four months after the first booster.

"We really encourage Manitobans to take whatever dose you are eligible for as soon as you become eligible for it," said chief provincial public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin.

COVID-19 continues to circulate throughout the province, Roussin stressed, and vaccination is the best protection against serious outcomes. It is not too late for people to receive their primary vaccine series or booster, he noted.

"We really see that ongoing benefit from being vaccinated, and we know that's the best way to protect ourselves and even people around us," Roussin said.

To date, more than 590,000 first booster doses have been given to eligible Manitobans, including nearly 80 per cent of those aged 60 and older. Nearly 10,000 people have received their second booster dose to date.

To find a location that offers the COVID-19 vaccine, Manitobans can use the online vaccine finder at www.manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/finder.html or call 1-844-626-8222 (toll-free).

The province also announced last week that eligibility for COVID-19 treatment now includes adults who have symptoms that began within the last five to seven days, tested positive with either a rapid antigen or PCR test, and are at higher risk for severe illness. The latter includes a number of factors including that they are not fully vaccinated, have not received a booster dose, have not been previously infected with COVID-19, are an older adult, have one or more chronic medical conditions, are moderately to severely immunocompromised, due to a medical condition or treatment, are obese or are pregnant.

Some people who have received all of the vaccine doses they are eligible for may still be eligible for treatment

if they are at higher risk for more severe outcomes for other reasons.

These criteria are broader than the requirements previously in place, and people who may be eligible should speak with their health-care provider to determine which treatment may be right for them.

Paxlovid is an antiviral pill that can be prescribed to treat COVID-19 and is now more broadly available by prescription at more than 175 community pharmacies across the province.

Meanwhile, Roussin also noted in the Friday update that there has continued to be a downward trend in terms of hospital and ICU admissions related to COVID-19.

"We see that the situation remains fairly stable in Manitoba," he said. "We see, with our hospital admission, it does appear that we have had a peak and things are trending in the right direction."

Morris Olafson will not seek re-election this fall

RM of Stanley reeve
has served two terms

By Lorne Stelmach

There will be someone else at the head of the RM of Stanley council table this fall. Morris Olafson recently announced he will not seek a third term in office.

Olafson last week said the decision simply came down to uncertainty that he could fully commit to the role for another four years.

"If it was maybe a two-year term or something like that, I might have considered it, but not another four years," he said. "It's been eight years now in this job and I just didn't feel like I wanted to do another four."

"I think I've done my part now," Olafson continued. "I've got a little bit of age to me, and I was thinking it's time for somebody else to take the reins and let her rip."

Olafson is proud of the work he and council have accomplished over the past several years.

"We've had a pretty good run. We've done a lot of good things, and we've had a great council and staff," he said, listing a few highlight projects. "I think one thing is our paving pro-

gram that we did through the villages ... it's almost done now. It's always ongoing, but we've done the major part of it."

Olafson also noted the importance of reaching agreements with Morden and Winkler on making contributions towards recreation. He has also liked seeing to projects like the new Tabor Home and the coming expansion of Boundary Trails Health Centre come together.

"I hope that comes to fruition. It's all in place; it's just a matter of getting the shovels turned on that ... that's one of the major things."

Infrastructure issues as well have been a top priority.

"We've done a tremendous amount of planning in regards to wastewater and water ... we need more water," Olafson said, noting the importance of such projects as regional wastewater treatment and the water reservoir to go in near the hospital to build some extra reserve and boost supply.

Another initiative which he celebrated is the development of a park property for the village of Reinfeld.

"That was probably a little overdue

... for a village of that size to have no major green space," said Olafson. "I think that's going to be a really good thing for that village."

There are many challenges that come with trying to support the continual strong growth of the region, Olafson observed.

"Every year we've grown ... people want to come here, and we've got enough industry and work around here that people can come," he said. "Our major hurdle right now is housing. We need places for people to live. That is a major hurdle that needs to be addressed ... it takes time and money."

He concluded by reflecting on what his overall aim was while serving as reeve and offered a bit of advice for whoever comes next.

"My main intent for the municipality was just to be a caretaker and make things just a little bit better than they were ... that was the goal."

"There's lots to do," Olafson said. "The main thing I would say is to

"I THINK I'VE DONE
MY PART NOW ... IT'S
TIME FOR SOMEBODY
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REINS AND LET HER
RIP."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Morris Olafson will not be seeking a third term as Stanley reeve this fall.

come in with no real agenda ... you've got to care about the community, and you have to care about the entire municipality.

"That's the real trick to this job; to maintain an evenness throughout the municipality so that everybody gets some kind of benefit with everything we do. Everybody has to feel that they are getting something for their tax dollars."

Regional Connections hosting info. sessions next month

Topics include severe weather prep and drug and internet safety

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Regional Connections Immigrant Services' Settlement Worker in Schools program is hosting a pair of information sessions at Garden Valley Collegiate in Winkler aimed at informing newcomers and longtime locals alike.

First up, on Monday, May 30, Southern Emergency Response Committee emergency coordinator Darin Driedger will present on *Severe Summer Weather Preparation*.

Driedger will discuss how best to prepare your family and household for severe weather events such as

thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail, and more.

The Pembina Valley has welcomed a host of newcomers in recent years, and many of them aren't necessarily fully aware of the potential weather emergencies that can break out during a typical Manitoba summer.

Settlement worker Aubrey Krahn recalls speaking with one newcomer about Winkler's outdoor air siren test a few weeks ago.

"When we had the tornado siren test and I mentioned it, she said, surprised, 'You guys have tornados out here?' So it really dawned on me that

a lot of our new families don't know what our weather can be like or what to do if the worst happens."

Attendees at the talk will also go home with a safety brochure, courtesy of Manitoba Hydro, that further lays out the dos and don'ts of riding out a Manitoba summer storm.

The week following, on Wednesday, June 8, RCMP officer Christopher Joven will be on hand to talk *Drug and Internet Safety*, going over the dangers children might encounter online and how parents can protect their kids against drug use.

Krahn notes it's been a number of

years since the local schools have been able to host an event like this.

"Just like weather can be different in different communities, drugs can be different here than back at home as well," she pointed out, adding that when it comes to internet safety, plenty of parents are at a loss about what apps kids are using and what dangers they may pose.

Both sessions take place at GVC (736 Main St., Winkler) from 6:30-8 p.m.

Advance registration is not required, but if you have any questions you can call 204-325-4058 or email swis.winkler@regionalconnections.ca.

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Morden's K9 officer completes drug training

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden's newest police officer is ready to starting hitting the streets.

Police service dog Ice recently finished a major part of her training with the completion of the drug detection course through the Winnipeg Police Service K9 Unit.

There is more work to go yet, but Cst. Curtis Warkentin sang Ice's praises after having gone through the eight weeks of training on drug detection with a large focus on cocaine, meth and heroine, which are the main drugs dealt with in Morden.

"There was some obedience stuff but mostly just straight drug detection in places like luggage, vehicles, lockers and just general rooms," said Warkentin.

"It was pretty intense. It was long days, and then she would spend the night in the hotel with me and she would be completely out, just sleeping the whole time and completely exhausted."

Officially welcomed last fall to begin her training, Ice is a Belgian Malinois who came to Morden through the Winnipeg Police Service K9 Unit breeding program.

The breed is described as smart, confident, and versatile, and one that is known for forging strong bonds with their human partners. Originally bred to be herding dogs, they now are widely employed as police and military dogs.

It is a long process to acquire and train a police dog. With basic obedience training and drug detection training now behind her, Ice will move on to tracking, apprehension,

and search training.

"It's about a 20 week program in total," said Warkentin, who noted tracking training may not happen until closer to next year. Tracking is even more intensive and takes place over a four-month period.

"We've been back in Morden now for about two weeks, so we've been doing some more training around our office ... we haven't been deployed yet, but she's doing really well," said Warkentin.

"For now, she'll be able to assist our members with things like executing search warrants for drugs as well as vehicle searches for drugs as well," he said. "She's available 24 hours a day for the guys if they need assistance in

a search or anything drug related."

Warkentin very much appreciates how Ice has done so far.

"She's been learning very quickly," he said. "We're fortunate to be able to take advantage of the Winnipeg Police Service breeding program. They have very good dogs and a good ge-

netic line, so she's a very fast learner and just loves to work.

"She's still just a working dog and not a pet," he noted, "but she follows me around when I'm in the yard and at work; she stays pretty close to me, and we're working very well together."



SUPPLIED PHOTO
Morden police dog Ice, along with handler Cst. Curtis Warkentin, recently completed eight weeks of drug detection training.

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Winkler chamber looking for youth board reps

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce has put a call out for business-minded youth.

After a two-year absence, the chamber is once again seeking high school student representatives to attend its executive board meetings during the 2022-23 school year.

"We're looking for student reps from each of the high schools to attend all of our board meetings throughout the year and play active roles as board members," explained executive director Tanya Chateaufneuf, noting the selected applicants are asked to provide reports on what's going on at their

Continued on page 10

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Louanes Harra of Ichkaben Doner Kabab restaurant in the Morden Food Hall was serving up some shawarma doner poutine last week as part of Explore Morden Winkler's Poutine Week promotion. "The number of restaurants that participated are a bit lower," said executive director Shane Neufeld of the 15 Winkler and Morden restaurants that took part. "We're happy with it. There was a great variety. There were a couple with buffalo chicken, some shrimp. It's been good."

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

> YOUTH REPS, FROM PG. 9

school and to get involved in chamber committees of interest to them.

It's a great chance to get a youth perspective on the board while also giving those youth a glimpse at the work of the chamber and its members and an opportunity to start networking in the community even before they graduate.

"We know that these are the people that are going to be working in our business community in the future," Chateaufeuf said. "Maybe one day we'll have these faces as board members in the future. We're planting seeds."

The chamber board meets at City Hall over the lunch hour every second Tuesday of the month (lunch is provided).

Upon graduation, student reps receive a \$500 scholarship toward

post-secondary education in thanks for their work.

Interested students must be attending Gr. 11 or Gr. 12 at Garden Valley Collegiate or Northlands Parkway Collegiate next fall.

A 250-word essay describing what you think makes a healthy business community along with a cover letter outlining why you'd like to be a representative on the chamber board is required. Those are due in by June 17.

To apply, contact the chamber at director@winklerchamber.com. Put "Student Rep Entry" in the subject line. Applications can also be mailed to the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce, c/o Executive Director, 185 Main St., Winkler, MB, R6W 1B4.



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Back 40 returns June 5

By Lorne Stelmach

It's been both exciting and challenging for the Back Forty Folk Festival to return after being shutdown the last two years as a result of the pandemic.

Set to go in the Morden Park bowl Sunday, June 5, the 2022 festival will have all of the tried and true features, including a couple fan favorite headline acts and local talent.

What they all have in common is the thrill to be back to making music for live audiences, suggested festival chairperson Scott Bell.

"It's great to return to these kinds of celebrations," he said. "It's really exciting. It's been strange to have this hiatus from live music, and it's felt good to get back into things with the 70s Show and some coffeehouses.

"It's been enough time that we have had to kind of remind ourselves about all of the things that need to be done for the festival," Bell added. "It's a good chance as well to rethink things but also just remember what all needs to be done."

As always, their emphasis in setting the musical lineup has been giving the local talent the chance to shine.

"One of our priorities has always been that we give local musicians the chance to be up on that stage," said Bell. "We tend to prioritize people who are actively writing and recording original music. That's a big investment of time and finances, and it's a really big deal to put out a record.

"In terms of the headliners, we're just looking for quality acts. In some cases, they approach us," he noted. "So just the fact that they're aware of our festival and have an interest in being part of it is enough for us to say yes, we'll have you.

"In some cases, it's acts that we have thoroughly enjoyed and just knew

that our audience would really enjoy as well," said Bell, who noted that was the case in selecting the Dirty Catfish Brass Band.

Based in Winnipeg, the band strives to surprise, challenge, tickle and pay homage to the New Orleans tradition by giving it a new audience in an unsuspecting locale.

"They performed here about five years ago and just did an amazingly energetic and enjoyable set, and it had the crowd dancing," recalled Bell.

"They were dynamic, and it's just a really cool style of music that they do, and they won the crowd over big time. We were just so impressed with the show they put on, and we've been looking forward to having them back."

The weekend's other headline act is Leaf Rapids, which features acclaimed singer and songwriter Keri Latimer. Latimer was previously part of the Juno Award-winning alt-country quartet Nathan.

With this new musical journey, she plunged into the depths of her family's ancestral memories, resurfacing with stories that had been tucked away and forgotten, and all of those stories come together on the record *Citizen Alien*. The project was a labour of love for Latimer and her husband, Devin.

"When artists of that stature want to be part of our event, we'll do what we can to make sure that we include them ... it was a no-brainer," said Bell.

"They are fantastic musicians and very accomplished ... even on a national stage, they are known across the country, and they are great songwriters and great performers."

Local artists who will also be featured throughout the day include Morden's Brian Jacobs, Paige Drobot and J.P. Lepage as well as Bill Dowl-



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The Dirty Catfish Brass Band (above) and Leaf Rapids (right) are headlining this year's Back 40 Folk Festival alongside a host of local talent.

ing and the Even Breaks.

Also on hand will be returning favorite Shotgun Jimmie and comedian/musician Dean Jenkinson hosting this year's show.

The festival will also feature a children's tent and an artisans' village organized by the Pembina Hills Arts Council.

"We're just encouraging people to come out ... we've gotten too use to being homebodies," said Bell, who



also encouraged people to get involved if interested. "It's run on volunteer power, so we're always looking for more volunteers."

Advance tickets are \$20 and are available at back40folk-festival.com and the Co-op gas bars. Tickets at the gate are \$25 (cash only). Kids 12 and under get in for free.



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> CFDC, FROM PG. 2

Cuetara said he is already started working to pinpoint building design ideas and needs and to get an estimation of the potential costs as well as ideas around the contents and features of the museum.

"I have already a few meetings with a few companies that are working with the kind of technology we want to install into our new facility," he said.

"This is not going to be a standard museum in any sense of the word standard but a one-of-a-kind museum," Cuetara suggested. "We will combine the highest technology available, easily updatable, with the best presentation of the life existing where now is Morden and the Manitoba Escarpment.

"We are approaching the whole project not with the idea of spending an important amount of financial resources in our fossils," he added. "More to the opposite, we are taking advantage of those fossils to create a huge economic resource for the community.

"The target is not the fossils, the target is the economic growth of the community. If we approach the project from this business perspective, the protection of the fossil heritage and the scientific research will come inherently," he suggested. "Furthermore, that continuous scientific research will be the fuel to keep the engine of the new facility running year after year."

“One of the family”

Gateway Resources Home Share program puts a call out for new providers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Families grow in all sorts of ways.

A baby is born, a child adopted, a marriage brings a fresh face to the table.

For six households in the Winkler area, their families have grown through their participation with the Gateway Resources Home Share program.

Placing individuals with intellectual disabilities into caring homes in the community is by no means a new idea—these placements have been happening throughout the Pembina Valley for decades—but Gateway took over stewardship of the program in Morden-Winkler from the province’s Community Living disABILITY Services a couple of years ago.

“We started literally in February before COVID, with our first information night in March of 2020,” says coordinator Erin Peters.

That info. session in Winkler went ahead as planned, but a second one in Morden was cancelled when the pandemic lockdown began.

Thanks to pandemic challenges, the

program hasn’t seen as much growth as Gateway would like. Now, as restrictions ease, they’re planning a new round of information nights in both communities over the next few weeks.

The first is in the Morden Library’s meeting room on Wednesday, June 1 at 7 p.m. The second session is at the Winkler Centennial Library on Wednesday, June 8, also at 7 p.m.

Home Share is part of Gateway’s residential division, which includes community group homes, supported independent living, and respite services.

“The whole purpose is to get the folks that we support into homes, get them into a family setting,” Peters says.

For some, their Home Share placement is a transitional one, giving them time to learn the skills they need to eventually live on their own.

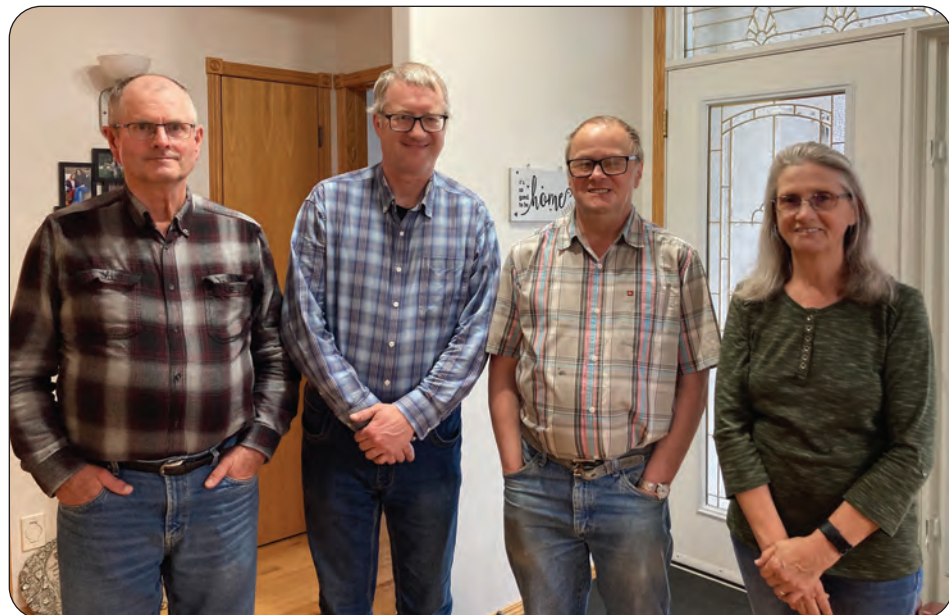
For others who will always need a little bit more help and supervision day-to-day, their placements are expected to be long-term ones.

Don Wiebe and Dan Eberling have



Vic and Pearl Klyne have hosted a number of individuals with intellectual disabilities over the past 18 years. James Yake (seated) has been with them for 11 years now and is very much a part of the family.

PHOTO BY
ASHLEIGH
VIVEIROS/
VOICE



SUPPLIED PHOTO

From left: Don Wiebe and Dan Eberling have lived with Jacob and Helena Buhler for about three years now. The Gateway Resources Home Share program is looking for more families willing to open up their homes to a person with intellectual disabilities.

been living with Helena and Jacob Buhler in Winkler for about three years now.

When their youngest son left home, the Buhlers found themselves with an empty house they were eager to fill.

“I talked to my husband and I said, you know what, we have three bedrooms empty downstairs—why don’t we do something with them?” Helena Buhler recalls.

She was no stranger to caring for people with special needs, having spent years supporting a young man living with autism as well as a sister-in-law with health issues.

They started off providing respite care on the weekends for two individuals and eventually welcomed three others into their home full-time.

Eberling and Wiebe have become very much a part of the family.

“I could not imagine not having the guys here. We have really grown to love them so much,” Buhler says. “We love having them here.”

The four of them sit down for meals together and the guys have various chores they do around the house to help out.

“When we have gatherings, they’re there,” Buhler says. “The grandkids invite them to their birthday parties.”

Every day when the duo come home from their jobs at Gateway, Buhler makes sure she’s there to sit down and chat about how their day went and what their plans are for the evening.

“You have to be able to treat them as your own family,” she says. “And that’s what we love doing.”

For his part, Eberling says he’s enjoyed his time with the Buhlers. He’s lived in a few other households over the years and observes there’s always a bit of a getting-to-know-you phase when it comes to navigating living

with other people.

You have to be able to “get along with people,” he says, noting he and Don enjoy helping out where they can, such as one recent afternoon spent cleaning up the pine combs in the yard so Jacob could mow. In the winter, they kept busy helping shovel the driveway.

“It’s good,” Eberling says of the Buhler home. “I think it will last here.”

‘HAVING A HEART FOR IT’

A few blocks away, Vic and Pearl Klyne have welcomed James Yake into their home.

Pearl grew up with a brother who had Down syndrome and she’s worked at Gateway for years, so she’s always had a special place in her heart for people with special needs.

When the Klynies first heard about the Home Share program, they decided to give it try and see how it went. That was 18 years ago. They’ve hosted several individuals in that time. Yake has been with them for 11 years now.

“I’ve always told people we’ve never had empty nest syndrome—we’ve always had somebody in our home here,” laughs Pearl.

“Having James, he’s like family to us,” says Vic. “We have three children and they’ve all accepted him as a brother.”

The role does come with some challenges. People with intellectual disabilities often need to stick to a routine, observes Vic.

“You have to allow them to do their routine. And also they have things that they like doing and things that they don’t, and you need to respect that.”

Continued on page 13

GVC Youth in Philanthropy grant out \$1,500

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley Collegiate Youth in Philanthropy were the bearers of gifts and grants last week.

Last Thursday, the student-led group presented the Pembina Valley Humane Society with a couple boxes of dog and cat toys they collected for the animal shelter through their Mission Paw-sible toy drive.

Shelter manager Alesha Unrau and puppy Athena were on hand to accept the goodies, which Unrau noted are most needed.

"We are always short on toys but especially now—we've had a big surge in dog intakes lately," she said, explaining they recently had a litter of 10 puppies come under their care. "They've definitely depleted our stock that we have so it's really good we've been able to partner with some of our schools to get the community involved in helping us restock."

YIP also handed out \$1,500 in grants to four community groups last week: \$250 to the Winkler Day Care to purchase new musical instruments for the kids, \$250 to South Central Cancer Resource for head coverings for cancer patients, \$300 to Central Station Community Centre for a coffee maker for their new location, and \$700 to Genesis House to buy a Nintendo Switch for children at the shelter to use.

Day care executive director Ang Nickel says they're thrilled to be able to finally replace their aging musical instruments.

"They have not been replaced in decades," she said. "We're so grateful for this donation."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Garden Valley Collegiate Youth in Philanthropy group handed out \$1,500 in grants to four local non-profits and a couple of boxes of pet toys to the Pembina Valley Humane Society last week.

"We didn't have anything like this when I was in high school," added day care board chair Sarah Joy Dersken of the YIP program. "It's so encouraging to see the younger generation being encouraged to give back to the community."

SCCR's Leora Hamm explained their grant will be used to purchase comfortable beanies for cancer patients who are losing their hair due to treatment.

"A lot of the wigs are uncomfortable or super hot and so we're looking at investing in bamboo, softer coverings that breathe," she said. "A lot of our selection is very old and outdated and

not made of the best fabric. This grant will go a long way—we'll probably be able to buy about 20 head coverings with it."

YIP members Amelia Loewen, Gr. 9, and Jade Hart, Gr. 10, shared a few of the charitable activities the group organized this year, including a successful fundraiser for the Winkler Food Cupboard over Christmas and spreading awareness in the school about missing and murdered Indigenous women.

"There wasn't a lot we could do just due to COVID restrictions but we did whatever was possible," said Hart. "Part of YIP is raising funds but it's

also about spreading the word about different causes."

Doing some good is what drew both teens to the program.

"I really like the concept of getting teenagers together and trying to do something for the community," said Loewen, noting sometimes youth involvement gets overlooked. "If you have something at the school then there's a greater opportunity for people our age to get involved."

"For any grade nines coming next year, come join us," urged Hart. "It's a really fun experience and I think we'll get more done next year."

"You have to love, to have a heart for them"

From Pg. 12

Yake, for example, loves doing the dishes and taking out the garbage, so the Klynas let him take the lead on those chores while helping him navigate other things around the house he can't do as well.

"We do the meals, we do his laundry," Vic says, explaining the washing machine is in the basement and Yake doesn't do stairs that well. "Sometimes we do have to help him with some stuff, to give some direction, but he is very independent."

Peters notes that the individuals in Home Share placements are all at Level 1 or Level 2 on the support in-

tensity scale (the scale goes to Level 7—the higher the number, the greater support a person requires).

Their needs vary greatly. Some are able to handle their own finances, make their own appointments, get themselves where they need to be around town, and be home alone for several hours without supervision.

Others need a bit more help with these kinds of things and are only able to be without supervision for an hour or so.

"It's a very broad range in the folks that we support," Peters says, noting it's a mix of emotional and practical assistance that is needed. "For the most part, it's routine stuff, so if

you're good with having an extra person in your house it's not a lot of extra work."

Many of the current providers still work full-time, she points out, though this is also an ideal situation for someone who is retired and looking perhaps to fill their home while also supplementing their income.

Providers receive monthly room and board as well as a per-diem amount for each person they welcome into their homes.

The money is a nice bonus, but it should certainly not be the only reason a person considers doing this, stresses Buhler.

"If you don't have the heart for it

then it's just not going to work," she says.

"You have to love, to have a heart for them," echoes Pearl. "You have to do it not as a job."

If you're not sure about taking on Home Share responsibilities full-time, there are also opportunities to provide respite care to see how you like it.

"We actually love starting people off as respite just so they can get their feet wet a little bit," Peters says.

If you'd like to learn more about the Gateway Home Share program, stop by one of the info. nights next month or reach out to Peters at 204-823-8215 or homeshare.gw@gmail.com.

A labour of love

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Agatha Wall was seven or eight years old the first time she put needle to cloth to embroider something beautiful.

Over 70 years later, she's still at.

The 81-year-old recently completed decorating a king-sized quilt and a pair of pillowcases with an intricate floral design.

It was her winter project, she explained.

"I quilt pretty well every winter, or embroider, just to keep myself occupied," Wall said during a visit at her Winkler home earlier this month.

Wall has made more than a few quilts herself from start to finish, but in recent years has been putting her embroidered designs on quilts made by Katie Friesen.

"I embroider first and then she does the quilt," Wall explained, noting Friesen does very fine work.

Wall recalls her late husband, Cornie, would pass the cold winter days as a boy embroidering as well. He actually taught her a stitch or two after they were married.

"He had to do this when they were stormed in to keep them out of mischief," she said, chuckling. "He showed me how to tighten up the stitches, but I liked the longer stitch better. You can blend better with that, so that's what I use."

Avoiding mischief isn't so much a concern for Wall, but keeping both her mind and body active most certainly is.

"I always have this feeling that people think once you're old everything stops, or you're useless. And I don't want that to be the case, because there are definitely older people that are not useless."

Age is just a number, Wall observed. For her part, as long as her health allows, she's going to continue to live a life of activity, creativity, and volunteerism.

"Most people think once you're old you get shut off every which way. And you do up to a certain point, but not totally. Not if you don't want to be shut down."

When she's not working on her own sewing projects, Wall keeps busy tending to her garden, patching up



Agatha Wall spent hours this winter embroidering the flowers for this quilt and pillow set. It's one of over a dozen quilts she's created over the years. Right: An up-close look at the work.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



and hemming things for her family, and baking—no one leaves her house without a tray of goodies in hand.

When she embroiders, Wall gives it her full attention. It's not a hobby she feels she can tackle well while also, say, watching television.

She recalls she got started embroidering dresser scarves in her youth and then worked her way up to more intricate designs and larger projects.

"I just grew into it, I guess. See, I had a grandma that was blind and had only one hand and I spent a long time with her ... I would sit there and embroider while she was telling me stories about her growing up days."

She's sewn so much over the decades that she has a badge of honour she displays proudly.

"My finger has gone crooked from always holding the needle," Wall said, holding up the bent finger, a tes-

tament to thousands of hours of work and, truly, labours of love.

"To me, it's just something fun to," Wall said, noting, after all these years, it comes so naturally to her that it's "almost like breathing."

But as well-versed as she is in the art, she's not one to stand still, either.

"I like to teach myself," Wall said of new techniques she tries out. She's not one for online tutorials, though. "I just work with the fabric until finally, oh, this is the way it goes ... live and learn."



Another work Wall did a few years ago—she lost count of how many tiny leaves she embroidered on this one.



Public Notice is hereby given that Enbridge Pipelines Inc. (Enbridge) intends to conduct the following Pesticide Program from May 01 2022 – November 15 2022 to control noxious weeds on Enbridge ROW's, temporary workspaces, stations and various facilities along the Enbridge Mainline and Bakken corridors.

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Any person may, within 15 days after the notice is published, send a written submission to the department below, regarding the control program or register with the department their written objection to the use of pesticide next to their property.

**Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Climate
1007 Century Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W4**

Steps for Pets returns

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Humane Society is excited to be holding one of its main annual fundraising events once again.

Cancelled last year due to the pandemic, the 2022 Steps for Pets walk-athon is set for Saturday, June 11 in Morden Park.

"It's an opportunity for us not just to raise funds but also help people in our community see that we are here, we do the best we can to help the stray and unwanted animals in our community, and lets us get in front of people and talk about what it is we do and why we do it," said public relations chair Holly Thorne.

The Pembina Valley region has welcomed countless newcomers in recent years, many of whom may not be familiar with the regional shelter's work.

"With the pandemic coming to an end, we have more opportunity again to get out face to face with people and

answer their questions and ask questions of what the community wants and how we can be of better service," Thorne said.

Everyone is welcome to take part in Steps for Pets, with or without a furry canine walking companion.

Participants can register online at pvhsociety.ca to collect pledges as an individual or as part of a team. Those who still prefer paper pledge forms are able to print them off the website or pick them up at a participating retailer.

Registration on the day of the walk starts at 1 p.m. The walk gets underway around 2 p.m.

The first 100 people to register get a 'swag bag' with items from event sponsors.

Participants have their choice between a three kilometre or a five kilometre route, both of which should bring participants back to the start area by about 3 p.m., at which point there will be an agility demonstration by Extreme Dogs.



The PVHS Steps for Pets walk-a-thon takes place in Morden June 11.
VOICE FILE PHOTO

There will also be pet related vendors on site as well as refreshments and food available.

Thorne was optimistic that the walk, which was last done in 2020, will get good support.

"Aside from the comedy night, it is our biggest fundraiser of the year,"

she noted. "We don't have specific goals in mind for this year, just because we are coming out of the pandemic ... but in the past the walk has raised between \$10,000 to \$15,000, so obviously our hope is to get up to that level."

News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888

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4 annuals that will add height to your flowerbeds

Annuals often feature abundant blooms that are positively eye-catching. While it's relatively easy to find low, medium-sized flowers, it can be difficult to get your hands on large, majestic ones. Here are four annuals that stand tall and proud.

1. **Dahlia.** Some varieties of this beautiful flower can grow up to two metres in height. However, it's best to stick to a single colour and find a type that doesn't grow taller than one-and-a-half metres.
2. **Cosmos.** This thin and delicate flower is available in beautiful pastels like white and pink. It'll wow your neighbours and attract butterflies and birds to your yard.
3. **Cleome.** This beautiful ball-shaped flower is often overlooked at greenhouses and nurseries because it rarely blooms at the start of spring. Give it a chance — you won't regret it.
4. **Canna.** This bulbous plant tends to bloom late in the season. Therefore, it's best to plant it indoors

four to six weeks before the last frost. Better yet, you can buy dwarf varieties that fill out quickly.

Horticulturists and landscapers generally recommend limiting yourself to two or three colours and three or four species to maximize their visual impact.



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Orioles, Bisons open season with wins

By Ty Dilello

The 2022 Manitoba Junior Baseball League (MJBL) season kicked off last Wednesday evening with a pair of games that went the way of our southern Manitoba teams.

The Pembina Valley Orioles defeated the St. Boniface Legionaires by a 3-2 scoreline, while the Altona Bisons won 6-2 over the Interlake Blue Jays.

The Orioles trailed for most of the game but fought back in the final inning to give themselves the win.

St. Boniface committed a two-out throwing error on Orioles' Mike Hepner's ground ball in the bottom of the seventh inning that allowed Owen Sager to score the tying run from third base. Darius Peters then came all the way home from second base to give the Orioles the winning run.

"The boys were pretty rusty batting, but our pitching did the job," said Orioles manager Jim Odium. "Drew Hilhorst had a good start pitching, and Johnny Martens came in for middle relief and shut them down. Kyle Peters then came in and closed the game for the win.

"Our team worked hard, and we're going to get better with their hard-working attitude. Our goal this year is just to get better throughout



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Pembina Valley first baseman Owen Goertzen braces for the ball as St. Boniface's James Pinchin dives for safety in the two teams' Manitoba Junior Baseball League season-opener last week. The Orioles got the win 3-2.

the year and peak at playoff time."

The Orioles were scheduled to follow up their season opener with a double-header against the Blue Jays on Victoria Day. Game scores could not be confirmed at press time.

For the Altona Bisons, ace pitcher Connor Cory was at his best as he went all seven innings, allowed just two infield hits and struck out an impressive 18 batters to lead his club to

a 6-2 win over the Interlake Blue Jays.

Cory recently completed his sophomore year at Mayville State University (NAIA), where he was named to the All-North Star Athletic Association First Team. Cory posted a 2.74 ERA over 42 2/3 innings out of the Mayville State bullpen.

"Our guys were a little rusty at the plate, which is understandable as for most, it was the first live pitching

they've seen this year, and for a couple, it was the first time they'd picked up a bat," said Bisons manager Curt Letkeman. "Interlake is a fairly young team as I only recognized three of their players from last year, but Connor pitched a great game. He was All-Conference this year at Mayville, and you could tell he'd been throwing a bunch. He struck out 18 and only gave up two infield hits as Interlake didn't get one ball to the outfield."

Coming up, the Bisons play the Giants in Elmwood Wednesday and then play a double-header on the road against the St. James A's Sunday.

The Orioles play an away double-header against St. Boniface Sunday.



The Altona Bisons won their home opener last Wednesday to open the 2022 MJBL season. They bested the Interlake Blue Jays 6-2.

PHOTO BY TY DILELLO/VOICE

"OUR TEAM WORKED HARD, AND WE'RE GOING TO GET BETTER WITH THEIR HARD-WORKING ATTITUDE."

Winkler pool opens for the summer this Friday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Aquatic Centre is preparing to dive into a more normal season of programming this summer.

The pool opens its doors this Friday, May 27.

It will be the first time in years they're able to operate without pandemic-related capacity limits and with a full roster of programs, says aquatic programmer Lani Ens.

"A big thing for us this year is, hopefully, no restrictions coming in," she says. "It's the first time since 2019, which, when you think about that, is kind of crazy."

"For me, this is my second year in this position but last year it was all about restrictions and how can we make this work and what can we do. This year it's like, oh my word, we can do anything we want."

That means the return of much-

missed programs such as pre-school swimming lessons.

"The past two years we hadn't been able to get those running just because you have to be literally within arm's reach of each child so you can't really social distance there," Ens said. "We're so happy that we can have the little ones back in the water with Parent and Tot swimming lessons and programs. For me, I noticed that was a huge hole in what we were able to offer the past two seasons."

Swimming lessons for older kids are also back to normal, with registration opening last week.

In addition to swimming lessons and public swimming, the pool also offers programs such as Early Bird swim (starting at 6:30 a.m. weekdays), Adult Swim (Wednesday evenings from 9-10 p.m.), and, new this summer, a Teen Swim Tuesday nights.

"It's something different," Ens



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Winkler Aquatic Centre is excited to be opening for the season this week.

said. "We thought if this is the year to make some changes and try some new things, then we may as well do it. We're bringing everything back, so we can kind of reinvent the wheel if we want to."

When it comes to facilities, Ens noted the aging speed slides are still out of commission. The city had hoped to replace those in the off-season, but supply issues has pushed that back.

"So far they're closed until further

notice," she said. "We're hoping we can see them soon."

Meanwhile, the Heat Wave concession booth is slated to open its doors again this summer, offering cool treats and eats during the busiest swimming times.

Check out the Winkler Aquatic Centre's social media pages to stay up-to-date on upcoming events at the pool.

Winkler Storm kick off season with a loss

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm kicked off the 2022 soccer season with a 6-0 loss to the FC Winnipeg Lions last week.

It's certainly not the start coach Reinaldo Oliveira wanted, but he's optimistic the team will grow in the weeks and months ahead, with some hard work.

"We need to practise more. We didn't have too much time in the field—it was pretty much our first time out," he said of the opening game, noting they've had practises in the indoor pitch at the Meridian Exhibition Centre but the outdoor fields have been too wet to play on of late. "We're going to need to work hard to be at the same level as the other teams."

The Storm are once again playing in the Manitoba Major Soccer League's top division: Premier.

The league has opted not to promote or demote any team on the strength of this summer's season. They did that

last summer as well due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 restrictions.

While it takes some of the pressure off, Oliveira wishes that wasn't the case.

"I'd like to have the pressure on, actually, because it motivates a little bit more to get better," he said.

The Storm have welcomed a handful of new players this season, some of them fresh out of high school.

"New blood is always good," Oliveira said. "And they're good players—they've come up from the U16 team."

A lack of coaches means the SC Riot,

the Storm's feeder team, isn't playing this summer.

"The downside is whenever players come for tryouts we have to do some cuts. I'd like to be able to offer another option would be to play for the Riot," Oliveira said, noting the whole point of that team was to give younger players a place to grow their skills before moving on to the Storm. He hopes to see them back on the field next season.

The Storm's next game is at home in Winkler at the 15th St. soccer pitch on Sunday, May 29 at 5 p.m. against Luso

Canadian CCS.

CANES STUNG BY HORNETS

Meanwhile, the local senior ladies team the SC Hurricanes posted their third loss last week, falling to Hornets SC 4-0.

The 'Canes took on Synergy this Tuesday night. Results were not available at press time.

Next week Tuesday they face Frozen Water.

SEMHL adding three new teams for 2022-23

By Voice staff

The South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League will operate with 10 teams this fall, the league announced on its website earlier this month.

Representatives of the Altona Maroons, Carman Beavers, Morden Bombers, Notre Dame Hawks, Portage Islanders, reigning-league champions Warren Mercs, and the Winkler Royals, voted on and accepted the ap-

plications of the Ste. Anne Aces, Red River Wild and Ile des Chenes Northstars.

The Aces, Wild and Northstars were

Continued on page 19

The **Voice**

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Morden Activity Centre golf tourney June 13

By Lorne Stelmach

Local golfers are invited to not only enjoy a round but also help make a difference in the lives of seniors in the community.

The Morden Activity Centre hosts its ninth annual fundraising golf tournament Monday, June 13 at the Minnewasta Golf & Country Club.

As in the past, the tournament will consist of a nine-hole best ball tournament followed by dinner.

The entry fee of \$60 includes golf, a cart, and dinner. Tee time will be 3:30 p.m., with the banquet to start at 6 p.m.

It has been an important and popular event for the centre and one that they were anxious to get back to again, said manager Barb Heide.

"I believe it is important, and it's

also the exposure that we get as well in the community, even just by reaching out looking for sponsorship," she said. "It creates awareness of who we are and what we're here for from different age groups."

"It's nice to remind people annually that we're here and that we look

for their support annually," Heide added. "This is one of a number of events where we look for community support. And this is the type of thing that can reach different age groups as well."

Pre-registration has been going quite well thus far.

"We've had a lot of uptake on sponsorships and registrations," Heide said, noting they have room for 60 golfers total and still had spaces available, as of last week.

To register, email mordenactivity-centre@gmail.com or call 204-822-3555.

Aces, Wild, and Northstars join league

From Pg. 18

members of the Carillon Senior Hockey League. The Aces had won five CSHL championships and the Wild, who play out of St. Jean, had won two league titles. Ile des Chenes was slated to join the league in 2020-21, but the season was cancelled due to the

pandemic.

"It's going to bring some new interest into the league," said SEMHL commissioner Tom Vatrt. "The teams that have joined are really excited about playing teams they never have and their fans are going to want to see teams that they've never seen. They've heard that the South Eastern

Manitoba Hockey League is a very good competitive league and people are excited that their small communities are now part of it."

The new teams will have to abide by the SEMHL's two-import limit.

The 2022-23 season—the SEMHL's 71st—begins in late October.

take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

4	3				9		1	
				5	3			
	8						4	
		1		9			8	
		3	2	7				
5	2				6			
				8			2	
	1							6
				2			5	7

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

7	5	4	1	2	3	6	9	8
9	3	8	5	4	6	7	1	2
6	2	1	7	8	9	4	5	3
4	7	6	9	3	1	8	2	5
1	9	5	8	7	2	3	4	6
3	8	2	4	6	5	1	9	7
5	4	3	2	1	7	9	8	6
8	6	9	3	5	4	2	7	1
2	1	7	9	6	8	5	3	4

Sudoku Answer

S	D	V	H	T	V	O	R	H	T	S	D	V
C	I	L	O	S	E	T	V	O	S	O	E	C
N	O	I	V	M	R	O	F	N	I	R	H	C
A	B	U	V	S	K	A	N	I	L	I	E	C
S	V	S	N	V	A	S	H	E	W	H	V	A
E	A	I	S	S	E	S	E	O	N	O	C	
E	N	E	S	R	E	A	V	C	O	N	T	I
G	V	D	E	L	I	R	E	P	V	A	L	V
S	V	I	E	R	V	A	V	N	E	S	R	V
E	S	R	V	A	H	E	D	P	I	S	E	S
R	V	E	S	T	S	E	H	E	W	E	R	C
E	E	I	N	O	I	L	V	H	C	N	V	A
E	I	R	E	I	L	V	H	C	N	V	A	E
R	A	D	C	T	E	P	A	V	S	E	S	V

Crossword Answer



CROSSWORD

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. English river
 - 5. Particular part of something
 - 11. Cool!
 - 14. Welsh for John
 - 15. Given name meaning "great spirit"
 - 16. Wrath
 - 17. Social occasion
 - 19. Mechanical belt
 - 20. ___ de la ___
 - 21. Commands
 - 22. Body part
 - 23. Caught sight of
 - 25. Funeral car
 - 27. Skin infection
 - 31. Sometimes they "burn"
 - 34. Russian river
 - 35. Famed soap opera character Kane
 - 38. Pie ___ mode
 - 39. Endangered
 - 41. Socially inept person
 - 42. Romanian river
 - 44. Swerve
 - 45. Monetary unit of Samoa
 - 46. A type of approach to please
 - 49. Form of Hebrew name for God
 - 51. "Carry On My Wayward Son" rockers
 - 55. A team's best pitcher
 - 56. A woody climbing plant
 - 60. Long, edible marine fish
 - 61. Human rights group in Africa (abbr.)
 - 62. Data
 - 64. Corporate bigwig
 - 65. Climbs
 - 66. Relating to the ear
 - 67. Commercials
 - 68. You need it to eat
 - 69. Political extremists

- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Reconnaissance (Brit. military)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14					15							16		
17				18								19		
20					21							22		
23					24			25		26				
			27			28	29	30						
31	32	33			34				35			36	37	
38				39					40			41		
42			43			44					45			
		46			47					48				
49	50								51			52	53	54
55					56		57	58	59		60			
61					62					63				
64					65						66			
67					68							69		

- 2. Asserts to be the case
- 3. Starchy food made of dried orchid tubers
- 4. Foes
- 5. Rheumatoid arthritis score
- 6. Ruler of Iran
- 7. The top of the head
- 8. Lilly and Manning are two
- 9. Purchase attire for
- 10. Glittering with gold or silver
- 11. The bank of a body of water
- 12. Regions
- 13. Makes tractors
- 18. Adult beverage
- 24. Force unit
- 26. Swiss river
- 28. Cater to
- 29. Woody climbing plants
- 30. Seems less impressive
- 31. Consume
- 32. Boxing's GOAT

- 33. Southwestern farmers
- 36. Beverage holder
- 37. A way to deteriorate
- 39. Judge
- 40. Norse explorer ___ the Red
- 43. Farm resident
- 45. One who helps to govern
- 47. Plant-eating ground bug
- 48. History Finnish county
- 49. Conifer native to Jamaica
- 50. Longed
- 52. Small Japanese city
- 53. Arum family plant
- 54. Puts together in time
- 57. From a distance
- 58. ___ contendere: no contest plea
- 59. Region
- 63. Mountain Standard Time

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STUDENT SERVICES MANAGER OR STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

CAREERS



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

TERM MUSIC & SENIOR YEARS TEACHER

FOR ROSEAU VALLEY SCHOOL IN DOMINION CITY, MB

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

EMPLOYMENT



We are a construction company
Located in Brunkild, MB.
We are currently seeking a

Short Haul Class 1 Driver

Experience an asset.

Majority of hauling is aggregates to local job sites.

Applicants are to email resume to candace@bestlandexcavation.com

EMPLOYMENT



We are a construction company
Located in Brunkild, MB.
We are currently seeking a

Heavy Equipment Operator

Experience an asset.

Applicants are to email resume to candace@bestlandexcavation.com

Classifieds Announcements

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email ads@winklormordenvoice.ca

BIRTHDAY



Join us in celebrating
Diane's 80th Birthday
Sunday, June 5 from 2 – 5 p.m.
At the Altona Seniors Centre

REUNION

Siemens-Suderman Reunion
Sunday, 12 June 2022
From 1-5 p.m.
Program at 2
Plum Coulee Senior's Centre on Main
265 Main Street, Plum Coulee
Bring YOUR OWN FASPA and travel mug
Coffee and juice will be provided
Contacts: Verna Pfrimmer at 204 626-3230
or vernapfrimmer@gmail.com
Peter Suderman at 204 774-3312
or psuderman@shaw.ca

ANNIVERSARY



Please join us at an Open House
to celebrate the
60th Wedding Anniversary of
Howard and Judy Thiessen of Morden, MB.
Saturday, June 11, 2022
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Pembina Threshermen's Museum
24102 - #3 Hwy
Winkler

IN MEMORIAM



John Wall
1947 – 2021

Death leaves a heartache,
No one can heal;
Memories are treasures,
No one can steal.
Some may forget you,
Now that you are gone;
But we will remember,
No matter how long.
You will always stay
Loved and remembered,
In every way.
No tears, no verse,
Can ever say how much
We miss you every day.
-Remembered and missed by
Mom and the Wall family

PUBLIC NOTICE

Winkler Senior Centre
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
May 26 at 2 pm

- Annual meeting of the membership
- Ed Wayne Performing
- Watermelon and Rollkuchen Served

102-650 South Railway Ave. winklerseniorcentre.com

COMING EVENTS

Ladies of all ages - you are invited...
Sat, May 28th 2:00 p.m.
Come wearing your favourite hat!
HATS OFF
Spring Tea Party
Hosted by Morden Church of God
141 6th Street - Ph 204-822-5557 to reserve your spot.
FREE EVENT
DOOR PRIZES, MUSIC, FUN, LOCAL ARTISTS
Guest Speaker: Anne Hamm - Hope Thrift Store

McSherry Auctions

12 Patterson Dr.,
Stonewall, MB

Online Timed Auctions
@ iCollector.com

Estate & Moving
Closes Wed June 1 @ 7:00PM

Estate & Moving
Closes Wed June 8 @ 7:00PM

Consignments Welcome!

(204) 467-1858 or
(204) 886-7027
www.mcsherryauction.com



Join the fight
against
Prostate Cancer
RIDE DAY
Saturday
May 28, 2022

10am
Earls Polo Park
(Winnipeg)

Visit
ridefordad.ca/manitoba

to register or
make a pledge

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CAREERS

LAKEVIEW INSURANCE BROKERS

Position: **Executive Account Manager**
Company: **Lakeview Insurance Brokers (Manitou) Ltd.**

Description: We are looking for an outgoing and driven individual who is interested in joining our growing team at our Manitou and/or Morden location. We are seeking a full time or part time Executive Account Manager, preferably with prior Farm and Commercial insurance experience. In this position, the successful candidate will use their industry knowledge and experience to provide customer service to an existing book of business and help grow that book. We are looking for an individual with an excellent work ethic who enjoys being part of a team and is able to produce and share new ideas in a fast paced work environment.

Qualifications:

- Level 1, 2 or 3 General Insurance License preferred
- Prior experience in an insurance brokerage preferred, however we are willing to train the right candidate
- Post-secondary education, preferably in a business program will be considered an asset

What We Offer

- Competitive starting salary/commission structures
- Extended health & dental benefits plan (50% premium paid)
- Company-matched RRSP program

If you are a motivated individual, with a strong work ethic, who is interested in joining our team, please email your resume to Keenan Reimer at kreimer@lakeviewinsurance.com, or Sonya Froese at sfroese@lakeviewinsurance.com.

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OBITUARY



Leah Margaret Douglas (née Follett)

August 11, 1934 - May 15, 2022

It is with heavy hearts that we announce Leah's peaceful passing at Tabor Home on Sunday, May 15, 2022.

Leah was born to John and Violet of Miami, Manitoba on August 11, 1934. She spent most of her life in Miami and Morden, with a brief time in Gimli.

Leah enjoyed playing darts, dancing, bingo, puzzling, knitting, crosswords and Sudoku. Above all, she took great pleasure in spending quality family time with her children, grandchildren, great and great-great-grandchildren. She loved her family very much and was very proud of them all.

Leah will be lovingly remembered by her daughter, Joyce (John) Forscutt, son, Les (Kylee) Douglas, son, Ryan (Michelle) Douglas. She will also be missed by her brother, Ron Follett, sister, Myrna Mann as well as her many grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends.

Leah was predeceased by her parents, John and Violet; her brother, Reg Follett, sister, Audrey Bruce, son, Raymond (Butch) Douglas, daughter, Julie Peterson and grandson, Keith Peterson.

Our family would like to thank the staff at Tabor Home (Aspen) for their care and compassion over the years.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Leah's memory to Tabor Home Inc.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
In care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com



Classifieds Announcements

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

OBITUARY

Jean Millar-Prior 1929 - 2022



Margaret Jean Stevenson was born in Morden on February 27, 1929. She was the eldest of five children: Jean, Elmer, Don, Blaine and Barry born to Walter and Henrietta Stevenson. Jean was raised in the Dunston area. She attended Shannon School, Lloyd George School and completed her high school years in Morden. Jean then went to Winnipeg to Marvel Beauty School to train as a hairdresser. After returning from Winnipeg, she lived with and kept house for her bachelor uncles. It wasn't long before she began dating her soon to be husband and love of her life, neighbour boy, Jim Millar. They were married on December 15, 1951 and had three children: David James, Raymond Walter and Wendy Louise.

Living on the Millar homestead, Jean ran the household with her mother-in-law, Bessie Millar. The tasks of a farmwife included many professions. She was a gardener, housekeeper, cook, canner and preserver of fruits and vegetables, educator, counsellor, vet, hairdresser, nurse, truckdriver, painter, planner, inn keeper, hostess and anything else the day required. She was known for keeping an immaculate yard, flower gardens and orchard. A large portion of Jean's life was spent as a caregiver for aunts, uncles, her mother-in-law and immediate family. After Jim's passing in 1993, Jean married her companion, Don Prior. With Don she developed an interest in golf, china painting and traveling, including a cruise to Alaska and winters in Texas. They lived in Miami for several years before moving to Homestead South in Morden. Don passed away in 2016. Jean remained at Homestead until moving to Prairie View Lodge in Pilot Mound in August 2021.

Throughout her life, Jean's heart remained on the farm. She continued looking after the farm books into her 80's, and to her last days asked for regular updates on what the boys were up to and joined the crew for field suppers whenever possible. Jean passed away peacefully on Saturday May 14, 2022 accompanied by family.

Celebrating her life are her family: son, Dave (Kathy), grandchild, Adam (Michelle), great-grandchildren, Tristan, Cole and Adrienne, grandchild, Tara (Vince), great-grandchild, Jacob, grandchild, Lucas (Kerri-Rae) great-grandchildren, Max and Kate; son, Raymond (Joyce), grandchildren, Shay and Ryan (Chelsea), great-grandchildren, Noah and Rowan; daughter, Wendy (Garry), grandchildren, Brandi (Aaron) and Darla (Kevin), great-grandchildren, Gabriel, Sam and Sydney; brother, Barry (Tannis) Stevenson, in-laws, Jean Spencer and Earl (Joyce) Millar and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial service was held at Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden with ash interment at Miami Cemetery.

The family would like to say thank you for the condolences expressed by all. We would also like to send our appreciation to the staff at Homestead South in Morden. A special thank you to the excellent staff at Prairie View Lodge in Pilot Mound for the exceptional care.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Jean's memory to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Alzheimer's Society.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
In care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com



EMPLOYMENT

Daniel Trucking Ltd. Class 1 Driver

We are accepting applications for a Class 1 Driver for southern Manitoba based out of the Morden Winkler area. Duties include hauling sand, gravel and soil with end dump and centre dump trailers. Super B experience an asset. Most of the work is within a hour or two from Morden. Wages DOE. **Contact info.: send resumes or your inquiries to danandco@mts.net**

CAREERS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

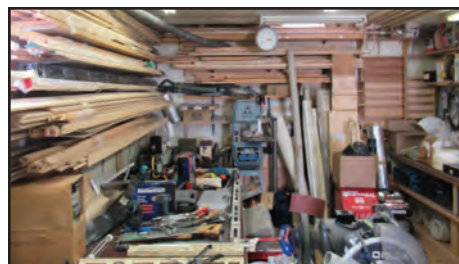
Lakeside Christian School in Killarney is accepting applications for the following position:

**1.0 FTE Grade 2/3 Teacher
Beginning Sept. 1, 2022.**

Please forward a cover letter, resume, three references (one from your pastor), and a statement of faith to R. Sawatsky at lcs@mymts.net.

For more information, visit www.lcskillarney.com or call 204-523-8240.

AUCTION



Live Auction for Dave Giesbrecht at 344 3rd St. in Winkler, MB Tuesday June 14 at 5 pm, selling 12 'x16' insulated shop including floor, this building is to be moved. All wood working equipment is coming out along with lumber and cabinet making hardware. See our website for pictures. www.billklassen.com

www.billklassen.com 204-325-4433 cell 204-325-6230



AUCTION



Estate auction for the late Jacob & Helen Suderman in Chortiz Village, south west of Winkler. This timed on line auction. Bidding closes Tuesday, June 7 at 5 pm. Wednesday & Thursday June 8 & 9 will be payment and pickup day from 10 am to 6 pm at the residence, 85 Chortiz St South. Large auction of tools, antiques & yard items. See our website of over 300 lots. Inspection day will be Saturday, June 4, 9 am to 2 pm



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PERSONALS

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National EMS Week

May 15 to 21, 2022



4 common types of EMS calls

National EMS Week, which takes place this year from May 15 to 21, is a time for all Americans to learn more about the lifesaving work emergency medical service (EMS) providers deliver every day. These front-line health-care workers are trained to arrive at the scene of an emergency and deliver medical aid. Here are some of the most common types of EMS calls they face.

1. TRAUMA

Traumatic injuries happen quickly and require immediate medical attention. They can be wounds sustained in car crashes, drownings, shootings and falls. About 100,000 Americans die from traumatic injuries every year and it's the leading cause of death in the country for people under 45. However, thanks to the medical training EMS workers have, many lives are saved.

2. ABDOMINAL PAIN

Pain in the abdomen can be a symptom of gas, indigestion or a pulled muscle. However, it can also be symptomatic of pancreatitis, an intestinal obstruction or appendicitis. EMS workers have the training to assess and diagnose abdominal pains on the scene.

3. RESPIRATORY DISTRESS

Determining why a patient can't breathe properly is complicated and requires extensive medical knowledge. Respiratory distress can be caused by an allergic reaction, asthma, pneumonia, a stroke or a drug overdose. Each scenario requires a different treatment before the patient can be safely transported to the hospital.

4. CHEST PAIN

Chest pain can be caused by a variety of conditions including anxiety, acid reflux, pneumonia, and a heart attack. An EMS worker's first job on a call pertaining to chest pain is to rule out the most life-threatening condition, which is cardiac arrest, then move on to other possible causes.

EMS workers face many challenges during an average shift, but their training and dedication help save lives. This year in May, be sure to show your appreciation for these medical professionals during EMS Week.

5 things you didn't know about paramedics



National Paramedic Services Week, which takes place this year from May 22 to 28, is an ideal time to educate yourself about the lifesaving work these front-line health-care workers do every day. Here are five things you may not know about paramedics.

1. THEY MAY LOOK AT YOUR VEINS

When you meet a paramedic, they'll probably look at your arms. Inserting IV drips into patients is a part of their job, so they're often looking to see whose veins are fit for a 14-gauge needle.

2. THEY'RE FAST EATERS

A paramedic rarely finishes a meal. As soon as they start eating, the crew will get a call. They generally eat quickly because they never know when the next emergency will occur.

3. THEY CARE DEEPLY

For most paramedics, the work they do is more than just a job. In fact, most care deeply about people. In general, paramedics enter their line of work because they genuinely love helping others.

4. THEY WANT YOU TO CALL THEM

Paramedics don't want you to drive yourself to the hospital if you're experiencing chest or abdominal pain. Instead, they prefer to bring the hospital to your doorstep, saving critical minutes that could mean the difference between life and death.

5. THEY HATE BEING CALLED DRIVERS

Never call a paramedic an ambulance driver. Paramedics are highly educated

and dedicated health-care professionals. They're much more than mere drivers.

Paramedics are trained to respond to medical emergencies and are valuable members of the communities they serve. This year for National Paramedic Services Week, consider thanking a paramedic you know for their hard work and commitment to the profession.



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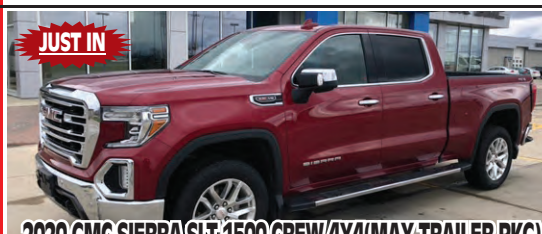
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